



Delaware Money Management Program



delaware
money
management
program

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Delaware Health & Social Services
Division of Services for Aging
and Adults with Physical Disabilities

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www.dhss.delaware.gov/dsaapd
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AARP in Delaware

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*Many Delawareans have special
needs because they are no
longer able to handle
their financial affairs.*

They either lose their benefit checks or do not
remember how they spent their money. They forget
to pay their rent or monthly bills - and in some cases,
have been evicted from their homes or had the electricity
cut off - even though they had enough money in their
bank accounts to make the necessary payments.

Often, family and friends step in to provide assistance.
However, there are many elderly individuals who may not
have someone to turn to for help. The Delaware Money
Management Program, in collaboration with the Division of
Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities
and AARP's Foundation provides assistance to elderly adults

who are on a limited income or adults who
have a physical disability and need help
organizing and paying their bills. Trained
volunteers will provide help with financial
matters so they can continue to live independently
and without worry.

Trained volunteers provide clients with the money management assistance they need for daily living.

Those who need assistance may:

- *Have difficulty balancing a checkbook or handling day-to-day financial affairs.*
- *Occasionally bounce checks or have difficulty managing a checking account.*
- *Leave utility bills unpaid or have utilities shut off.*
- *Are under the threat of eviction or loss of home due to foreclosure.*
- *Have problems reading or writing due to poor vision, injury or disability.*
- *Are a victim of financial exploitation or financial abuse.*
- *Have a serious illness that leaves little time to manage financial affairs.*

Our volunteers can help?

Our volunteers help others remain financially secure and independent.

Bill Payer Volunteers work closely with clients by opening and organizing mail and bills, developing a household budget and preparing checks for the clients' signature. Clients remain in control of their finances - but will get a little help keeping things in order. Although some clients are served on a short short term basis, the majority are assisted on a long-term basis.

Representative Payee Volunteers provide assistance to clients who are no longer able to manage their finances. You will be appointed by the Social Security Administration or another government agency to manage the monthly benefits he or she receives. Your role will be to oversee your client's finances by writing and signing checks from an account in which a benefit check is automatically deposited.

To qualify for assistance, Delaware Money Management Program clients must be low-income seniors or adults with physical disabilities. As of 2008, annual income for a single person may not exceed \$23,475 or \$1,956 per month; couples' annual income may not exceed \$33,217 or \$2,768

per month. Individuals must have liquid assets of no more than \$35,000; this includes but is not limited to cash savings, certificates of deposit, stocks or bonds. Please note, AARP adjusts and establishes the income and asset levels annually. Clients may own their home. Income of all those residing in the home is considered. Only Delaware residents are eligible to participate in this program.



If you or someone you know needs help, call **302.255.9381**.

Delaware Money Management volunteers receive two three-hour training sessions before being paired with a client. Clients will be located within close proximity to the volunteer's home and will meet the criteria specified in the application. Although time commitment will vary from client to client, most volunteers meet with clients once or twice per month for one or two hours per visit. Volunteers receive semi-annual in-service trainings each year and receive ongoing support from the Delaware Money Management Program administrator.

For more information or to become a volunteer,
please call **302.255.9381** or **800.223.9074**.

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Collaborators

- Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Services for the Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities
- AARP Foundation
- AARP

The Delaware Money Management Program promotes independent living for older people on a limited income who are at risk because they cannot manage their financial affairs and cannot get help from friends or family. The program's trained volunteers provide clients with the money management assistance they need for daily living.

Gratitude is expressed to the 141st General Assembly for their support of legislation creating the Delaware Money Management program.

Because of the sensitivity of the type of transactions that will be involved, there are a number of safeguards in place to protect both our volunteers and our clients including:

- *Limited insurance coverage of client funds.*
- *Volunteer background checks including state and federal criminal background fingerprinting as well as Adult Abuse and Child Abuse registry checks.*
- *Volunteers are trained and provided with ongoing support from the Division of Services for the Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities.*
- *Volunteers work from one designated account with a \$3,500 limit.*
- *Volunteer activity and client accounts are monitored on a monthly basis.*

